Mars Exploration Science Monthly Newsletter

A publication of the Mars Program Office and the Mars Exploration Program Analysis Group (MEPAG)

February 2016

Mars Science News

31st MEPAG meeting — Second announcement (including hotel information) is posted

March 2-3, 2016; Silver Spring, MD

Professor Lisa Pratt, MEPAG Chair, cordially invites attendance to the 2016 face-to-face MEPAG meeting, scheduled for 1.5 days, March 2-3, 2016, in Silver Spring, MD. This meeting will report on the implications of recent meetings and studies, as well as the overall status of Mars exploration, and will handle some organizational matters for MEPAG (e.g., Chair and Executive Committee succession). The second announcement has been posted: http://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov/meetings.cfm?expand=m31.

The meeting is open to all members of the Mars science community, as well as our international colleagues. Adobe Connect information is provided in the 2nd announcement, for those who cannot attend in person. Additionally, the announcement contains hotel block information for the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Washington DC - Silver Spring (at \$226/night + tax, held until February 20, on a first-come, first-served basis).

Mars Biosignatures Workshop (and student travel grant)

Conference: May 16-19, 2016 in Lake Tahoe, NV, USA

Deadline: March 15, 2016

The Biosignature Preservation and Detection in Mars Analog Environments conference will be held May 16–19, 2016 at the Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe (http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/biosignature2016/). The objective is to focus strategies to detect a range of possible biosignatures on Mars in different categories of geologic settings by assessing the attributes and preservation potential of various biosignatures in different Mars-analog habitable environments on Earth. The deadline for abstracts is March 15. Questions about the workshop should be directed to Dr. Lindsay Hays (lindsay.e.hays@jpl.nasa.gov).

The student travel grant opportunity is open to undergraduate and graduate students with Mars-related research interests, who are US citizens or legal residents. The student application is also due March 15, and is posted on the MEPAG site: http://mepag.nasa.gov/student.cfm?expand=student. Questions about the travel grant should be directed to Dr. Serina Diniega, (serina.diniega@jpl.nasa.gov).

Pre-LPSC: 3rd Annual Workshop on Potential Mars Returned Sample Science

March 20, 2016; College Park room @ The Woodlands Waterway Marriott Hotel

The Third Annual Workshop on Potential Mars Returned Sample Science will take place on Sunday March 20, in the College Park room at The Woodlands Waterway Marriott Hotel. This workshop will be an opportunity for scientists interested in the investigation of geological samples from Mars to stay up-to-date on current planning related to the possibility of returning samples from Mars. This year's workshop will focus primarily on information regarding the newly formed Mars 2020 Returned Sample Science Board (RSSB), including feed forward of some of the issues that have already been considered and recommendations that have been made to the project. Discussion will also include information from the other missions of the proposed MSR campaign.

An RSVP is not required. Questions should be directed to Dr. Lindsay Hays (lindsay.e.hays@jpl.nasa.gov).

NASA RFI: Assessing the Community's Use of the PSD Facilities

Deadline: April 30, 2016

The Planetary Science Division (PSD) is interested in maximizing the scientific productivity of its Facilities Program. To assess its Facilities Program, PSD initiated a review of its existing funded facilities, organized a special session at the upcoming Lunar and Planetary Science Conference (LPSC) in Houston, Texas, and is now soliciting comments from the planetary science community through this RFI. Input should be in a PDF file format, not to exceed two pages, attached to an E-mail and sent to Doris Daou at Doris.Daou@nasa.gov with subject line: REPONSE to Facilities RFI.

Inputs received in response to this RFI will be considered by NASA, which will establish a PSD internal team to create a strategic plan for the Facilities Program. PSD will assess the needs of the community for existing facilities through past use, define an implementation approach to answer future needs of the Facilities Program, and provide programmatic direction.

Summer School: Biosignatures and the Search for Life on Mars

July 4-16, 2016; Reykjavik, ICELAND

This summer school aims to cover the subject of the search for life in different environments, both on early Earth, below Earth's surface and on Mars. It will bring together students and researchers from a multitude of different fields. Field studies on the colonisation of lava fields and Mars analogue landscapes will complement the lectures. For further information about the summer school please check the website at: http://www.nordicastrobiology.net/lceland2016/. The application deadline 31 March 2016.

Summer School "Volcanism, Plate Tectonics, Hydrothermal Vents and Life"

August 23- September 1, 2016; Azores, PORTUGAL

The course aims to give participants a thorough introduction into influence of volcanism, plate tectonics on life and the role of hydrothermal vents in the emergence of life. It is co-organised by the European Astrobiology Campus, the Nordic Network of Astrobiology and the COST Action "Origins and Evolution of Life in the Universe". Travel grants are available for students and early career investigators affiliated to universities in most European countries. For further information about the summer school please check the website: http://www.nordicastrobiology.net/Azores2016/. Deadline for applications is 15 March 2016 23:59 UTC.

Near-term Due Dates (next three months)

Due	Project
February 5	Water in the Universe: From Clouds to Oceans, Early Registration deadline
February 12	41st Scientific Assembly of the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR 2016), Abstract deadline
February 15	ASCE Earth and Space 2016 Conference, Registration deadline
February 18	Japan Geoscience Union Meeting, Abstract deadline
February 26	26th Goldschmidt Conference, Abstract deadline
February 29	67th International Astronautical Congress, Abstract deadline
March I	68th Annual Meeting of the Rocky Mountain GSA, Abstract deadline
March 17	European Geosciences Union General Assembly 2016, Registration deadline
April I	iCubeSat 2016, the 5th Interplanetary CubeSat Workshop, Abstract deadline
April I I	68th Annual Meeting of the Rocky Mountain GSA, Early registration deadline
April 15	Biosignature Preservation and Detection in Mars Analog Environments, Early registration deadline
April 26	26th Goldschmidt Conference, Early registration deadline

Upcoming Conferences and Workshops

A note about "conferences" and this calendar of events

- Missing NCTS#s (and forecasting deadline, if anomalous) can be sent to Meredith Cosby (Meredith.A.Cosby@jpl.nasa.gov).
- If no deadline is noted: it is usually 90days in advance sometimes further in advance if the conference is "Heavily Attended."
- Please do not assume our noting of NCTS# is complete. If you are unsure if an event is a conference or not, or when the forecasting deadline may be, please consult with your NASA Center conference forecasting/travel unit.

First Quarter, 2016					
	March 2-3, 2016 Silver Spring, MD, USA	MEPAG Meeting #3 I http://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov/meetings.cfm, NCTS# 24324-16			
	March 5-12, 2016 Big Sky, MT, USA	IEEE Aerospace Conference http://www.aeroconf.org/, NCTS# 22854-16			
	March 14, 2016	20-Day 2016 ExoMars Launch Period Opens			
	March 21-25, 2016 The Woodlands, TX, USA	Lunar and Planetary Science Conference (LPSC) http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/lpsc2016/, NCTS# 23351-16			
	March 29-31, 2016 Washington DC, USA	NRC's Committee on Astrobiology and Planetary Science (CAPS)			

Second Quarter, 2016				
	April 4-8, 2016 Oxford, UK	International Venus Conference http://venus2016.uk/		
	April 11-15, 2016 Orlando, FL, USA	ASCE Earth and Space 2016 Conference: 15th Biennial ASCE International Conference on Engineering, Science, Construction, and Operations in Challenging Environments http://earthspaceconf.mst.edu/, NCTS# 23397-16 Symp. 1: Granular Materials in Space Explorat., Symp. 2: Explorat. & Utilizat. of ET Bodies		
	April 12-15, 2016 Noordwijk, NETHERLANDS	Water in the Universe: From Clouds to Oceans http://www.congrexprojects.com/2016-events/16a06		
	April 17-22, 2016 Vienna, AUSTRIA	European Geosciences Union General Assembly 2016 http://egu2016.eu/home.html, NCTS# 23760-16 Session PS2.3: Mars Science and Exploration		
Updated!	May 16-19, 2016 Lake Tahoe, NV, USA	Biosignature Preservation and Detection in Mars Analog Environments http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/biosignature2016/, NCTS# 24667-16 (forecast by Feb 12)		
	May 17-19, 2016 Washington, DC, USA	Humans to Mars Summit http://h2m.exploremars.org/ , NCTS# 24381-16		
	May 18-19, 2016 Amsterdam, NETHERLANDS	4th European Lunar Symposium http://sservi.nasa.gov/els2016/		
New!	May 18-19, 2016 Moscow, ID, USA	68th Annual Meeting of the Rocky Mountain GSA http://www.geosociety.org/sections/rm/2016mtg/index.htm Sessions: (1) Planetary Science - Insights from Remote Sensing, Field, and the Laboratory; (2) Mega-floods, Paleohydrology, and Fluvial Processes on Earth and Beyond - In Recognition of the Scientific Contributions of Victor R. Baker; (3) Volcanic Hazards - Products, Processes, and Perspectives		

Second Quarter, 2016 — cont.					
New!	May 22-26, 2016 Chiba, JAPAN May 22-26, 2016 Chiba, JAPAN May 22-26, 2016 May 22-26, 20				
	May 24-25, 2016 Oxford, UK	iCubeSat 2016, the 5th Interplanetary CubeSat Workshop http://icubesat.org/			
	June 13-17, 2016 Laurel, MD, USA	International Planetary Probe Workshop (IPPW-I3) http://ippw2016.jhuapl.edu/index.php additional short course offered June 11-12, 2016			
	June 20-21, 2016 London, UK	Martian Gullies and their Earth Analogues https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/martiangullies			
	June 20-24, 2016 Potsdam, GERMANY	I Ith International Conference on Permafrost (ICOP) 2016 http://icop2016.org/index.php/program Session #16 "Planetary Permafrost and Earth Analogues"			
New!	June 26-July 1, 2016 Yokohama, JAPAN	26th Goldschmidt Conference http://goldschmidt.info/2016/index Session 02h: Geochemical Evolution of the Martian Surface and Interior			

Third Quarter, 2016			
	July 30-August 7, 2016 Istanbul, TURKEY	41st Scientific Assembly of the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR 2016) and Associated Events http://www.cospar-assembly.org	
	August 7-12, 2016 Berlin, GERMANY	Annual Meetings of the Meteoritical Society	
	September 5-9, 2016 Reykjavik, ICELAND	6th International Conference on Mars Polar Science and Exploration http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/marspolar2016/ , NCTS# 23841-16 (forecast by Feb 28)	
	September 14-15, 2016 Irvine, CA, USA	NRC's Committee on Astrobiology and Planetary Science (CAPS)	
New!	September 26-30, 2016 Guadalajara, MEXICO	67th International Astronautical Congress http://www.iafastro.org/events/iac/iac2016/	

Fourth Quarter, 2016				
	October 16-21, 2016 Pasadena, CA, USA	Joint DPS-EPSC Meeting		
	October 19, 2016	2016 ExoMars (TGO and EDM) Arrival at Mars		

2017				
March 28-30, 2017 Washington, DC, USA	NRC's Committee on Astrobiology and Planetary Science (CAPS)			
September 13-14, 2017 Washington, DC, USA	NRC's Committee on Astrobiology and Planetary Science (CAPS)			

Seasons on Mars				
	MY33	MY34	MY35	
Start of Northern Spring / $L_{\rm s}$ 0	6/18/2015	5/05/2017	3/23/2019	
Start of Northern Summer / L_s 90	1/03/2016	11/20/2017	10/08/2019	
Start of Northern Autumn / $L_{\mbox{\tiny s}}$ 180	7/04/2016	5/22/2018	4/08/2020	
Start of Northern Winter / L_s 270	11/28/2016	10/16/2018	9/02/2020	

Special holidays to consider when scheduling conferences/workshops/meetings					
Good Friday	3/25/2016	4/14/2017	3/30/2018	4/19/2019	
Rosh Hashanah	9/16/2016	9/20/2017	9/10/2018	9/30/2019	
Yom Kippur	9/25/2016	9/29/2017	9/19/2018	10/8/2019	
(No	te that Jewish holidays sta	ert at sundown the pre	vious evening)		
Thanksgiving Day, Canada	10/8/2016	10/9/2017	10/8/2018	10/14/2019	
Thanksgiving Day, U.S.	11/22/2016	11/23/2017	11/22/2018	11/28/2019	
Christmas Day	12/25/2016	12/25/2017	12/25/2018	12/25/2019	

Luitors		
Meredith Cosby	Meredith.A.Cosby@jpl.nasa.gov	818-354-0226

David Beaty

Serina Diniega Serina.Diniega@jpl.nasa.gov 818-393-1487

David.Beaty@jpl.nasa.gov

Please send your Mars Community Announcements and calendar items for inclusion in next month's newsletter to:

Meredith Cosby at Meredith.A.Cosby@jpl.nasa.gov.

This newsletter (and all previous months') is also posted on the MEPAG website: http://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov

• If you wish to withdraw from the electronic mailing list this newsletter is sent out to, please send an email from your email account to mepag-removesignup@jpl.nasa.gov.

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